(c) All reports of the Law Commission upto its 176th Report have been made public. 177th to 182nd Reports were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 and are to be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 25.11.2002. The 183rd Report of the Law Commission was received on 11.11.2002 and preparations are being made for laying it in Parliament.

Compulsory Marriage Registration

554. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make marriage registration compulsory in various States; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) There is no general Central law governing all the communities on compulsory registration of marriages. However, those who choose to register their marriage can enter marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. Further, certain personal laws also deal with this issue. For example, section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1995 provides that for the purpose of facilitating the proof of Hindu marriages, the State Government may make rules providing that the parties to any such marriage may have the particulars relating to their marriage entered in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed in a Hindu Marriage Register kept for the purpose. Section 37 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 provides that marriage between Indian Christians shall be registered. Section 6 of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 also provides that every marriage under that Act shall be registered. Some of the State Governments have made law for uniform compulsory registration of marriages.

The National Population Policy, 2000 has set the target of compulsory registration of marriages by 2010.